

GEORGE W. BAIRD.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
SUBMITTING A RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO THE AC-  
COUNTS OF GEORGE W. BAIRD, MAJOR AND PAYMASTER.

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JANUARY 18, 1904.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to  
be printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, January 15, 1904.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of War of the 7th instant, and its inclosures, recommending that authority be granted the accounting officers of the Treasury to allow and credit in the accounts of George W. Baird, major and paymaster, U. S. Army, and lieutenant-colonel and deputy paymaster-general, the sum of \$679.03, as set forth therein.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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1729 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW.,  
*Washington, D. C., December 22, 1903.*

SIR: I have the honor to request that the Secretary of War recommend to the Congress legislation, granting relief to me to the amount of \$679.03 disallowed in my accounts as major and paymaster, and lieutenant colonel and deputy paymaster general, U. S. Army. The application and inclosures are made in duplicate with the intention that one be sent to each House of Congress.

The inclosed statement sets forth briefly the reasons why this relief is asked for. It seems pertinent to add that while the Congress, in the act of March 3, 1903, permitted the removal of \$5,000 disallowed, I have received relief only to the amount of \$1,231.49 although my responsibility and disbursements during the Spanish-American and Philippine wars, and in settlement of the accounts of troops organized for those wars was nearly \$67,000,000.

Respectfully,

G. W. BAIRD,  
*Brigadier General U. S. Army.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR,  
*War Department, Washington.*

(Through Office of Paymaster General, U. S. Army.)

[First indorsement.]

OFFICE PAYMASTER GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,  
*Washington, January 4, 1904.*

Respectfully transmitted to the honorable the Secretary of War, approved and recommended.

The extent and character of the work performed by General Baird during the period covered by the statement within, entitles him to the utmost consideration. A careful review of the items suspended and disallowed, shows that in each case he acted in good faith and according to good judgment from the facts set before him.

Every effort has been made to recover the amounts overpaid, and the enactment of a bill similar to the inclosed draft, will be simply extending the time of the act passed March 3, 1903, to embrace this great settlement period the greater part of the work of which was done subsequently in General Blaird's office.

In this connection I made the following remarks in my annual report for 1900: (See inclosure herewith marked "A.")

From this it will be seen that the relief asked for amounts to less than one-eighth of one per cent of one year's payments, and I think it will be fairly conceded that the relief asked for should be given.

A. E. BATES,  
*Paymaster-General, U. S. Army.*

[Second indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,  
*Washington, January 5, 1904.*

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, recommending approval.

S. B. M. YOUNG,  
*Lieutenant-General, Chief of Staff.*

[Third indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 7, 1904.*

Approved and respectfully forwarded to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, with request that the within communication be transmitted to Congress.

E. ROOT, *Secretary of War.*

A.

[Extract from the annual report of the Paymaster-General, United States Army, for the year 1900.]

CHIEF DISBURSING OFFICER.

For the better organization of the office and economical distribution of force, in October, 1899, I consolidated all payments made in this city into one division immediately under the direction of the Paymaster-General and called it the disbursing division of the Paymaster-General's Office. This division was placed under the charge of Lieut. Col. G. W. Baird, Deputy Paymaster-General, as chief disbursing officer, Paymaster-General's Office, and four paymasters were ordered to report to him as assistants.

In this office has been concentrated an immense amount of work of a miscellaneous character, besides the work coming from the Auditor's Office, where all claims are adjusted and then sent to the Paymaster-General's Office for settlement. An idea of the increase of work coming from this source may be obtained from the following facts: The Auditor reports (p. 7, Annual Report for 1900) that the number of military claims settled by his Office and transferred to the Pay Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, was 14,568; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, it was 16,938; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, it was 56,764. In addition to this increase of more than 300 per cent in the number of claims sent to the Department for settlement, there was an increase at the rate of about 50 per cent in the clerical work required in the settlement of these claims caused by the change made in the Auditor's Office, by which about half of the work formerly done in that Office has been thrown into the Pay Office. The chief disbursing officer says in his report:

"I have now 17 clerks other than those employed on duties connected with the post paymaster's office, an increase of 15, properly chargeable to the increased work contingent upon the changed methods of the Auditor above mentioned.

"The system of allotment has also created a very great amount of clerical work in this office, as there have been to date 4,300 allotments, and as some allotments are dropped and others added from time to time it makes an immense amount of clerical work.

"During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1900, there was disbursed in this office by the chief and four assistants, paid on vouchers, \$4,930,364.56, which represents 62,664 vouchers.

"General Order, No. 141, August 4, 1899, by which volunteer officers were allowed to be paid on individual vouchers for the benefit of their families, all of which were paid here, has also thrown a large increase of work into this office."

Official.

A. E. BATES,  
Paymaster-General, U. S. Army.

*Memorandum of disallowances in the accounts of Gen. G. W. Baird when serving as an officer of the Pay Department, U. S. Army.*

No. of voucher.	Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
1003	1896	\$15. 00	The amount was duly paid by G. W. Baird, then major and paymaster, by shipping the money by express, as required by orders of payment. The act of July 16, 1892, under which payment by express is made, provides that such shipment shall be "at the expense and risk of the United States." Notwithstanding such payment the Assistant Secretary of War gave orders for a second payment, as appears by inclosure "A," and the second payment was made as shown by inclosure "B."
1880	1896	24. 80	These are payments of mileage to Lieut. L. H. Lewis, Ninth Infantry. The journeys were performed under competent orders and were made on duty. Lieutenant Lewis was making topographical surveys and the Comptroller held that the journeys for which mileage is disallowed should have been paid for as "actual expenses," not mileage. The last payment was made in October, 1897; the decision of the Comptroller was published in 1898 and received in Major Baird's office September 3, 1898. Lieutenant Lewis was killed near Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898; so no collection was possible from the payee.
2463	1897	67. 12	
2612	1897	50. 16	

*Memorandum of disallowance in the accounts of Gen. G. W. Baird when serving as an officer of the Pay Department, U. S. Army—Continued.*

No. of voucher.	Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
25807	1901	\$1.22	Partly a duplicate payment as to which paymaster had no notice. Pay for exercise of command higher than rank of officer; due by law. Duplicate payment as to which paymaster had no notice. Paymaster had no information of a previous payment. The paymaster had no information of officer's detached duty. A previous payment by another paymaster not known. The paymaster was not responsible for any of these overpayments. They were allotments first paid to the allottee of a soldier who served in the Philippines. Information was sent by paymaster in ample time which would have prevented the overpayment, but the soldier, instead of being sent to San Francisco for final payment, as the paymaster was told he would be, was sent to Portland, Oreg. The paymaster has requested the Secretary of War to institute suit for recovery of amount from the payee, Edward Jolly, Seventh Infantry.
28932	1901	57.03	
28956	1901	81.50	
29322	1901	12.50	
33251½	1901	6.04	
37746	1901	2.79	
37790	1901	2.50	
37813	1901	6.60	
40836	1901	77.00	
40951	1901	89.83	
41069	1901	19.44	In some of these cases there were especial reasons noted hereon why the erroneous payment could not be known in G. W. Baird's office. As to all of them, the limitation of relief under act of March 3, 1903, worked especial hardship in the office of G. W. Baird as chief disbursing officer, Paymaster-General's office, as the accounts of all volunteer officers who were mustered out were settled in his office, and as a matter of equity the relief granted by act named should have applied to all of those accounts.
2230	1902	55.50	
5111	1902	22.00	
8864	1902	22.00	
11839	1902	22.00	
15213	1902	22.00	
18463	1902	22.00	
		679.03	

## A.

## WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, December 11, 1896.*

SIR: In reply to your indorsement of November 23, 1896, on complaint of Private Alfred S. O'Gorman, Company A, Twentieth Infantry, that he has not received his pay for the month of May, 1896, I have the honor to inform you that the Assistant Secretary of War directs that you at once pay the soldier the amount due him for the month mentioned.

Very respectfully,

J. B. BABCOCK,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Maj. G. W. BAIRD, *Paymaster, U. S. Army.*

(Through Headquarters Department of the Missouri.)

A true copy:

P. D. VROOM,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Inspector-General.*

## B.

*The United States to Private Alfred S. O'Gorman, Company A, Twentieth United States Infantry, Dr.*

For pay from 1st of May, 1896, to 31st of May, 1896, being one month, at \$15 per month .....	\$15.00
Balance .....	15.00

(Written across the face:) This duplicate payment is made in compliance with appended specific order, dated December 11, 1896, from the Assistant Secretary of War, and is made reserving to myself all rights that I have by virtue of my having fully paid said Private Alfred S. O'Gorman, Company A, Twentieth Infantry, for May, 1896, on my voucher, No. 1003, of June, 1896. G. W. Baird, major, Pay Department, U. S. Army. Supplementary to voucher 2605, November, 1896.

Received of Maj. G. W. Baird, paymaster, U. S. Army, this 21st day of December, 1896, \$15, in full of the above account, by check No. 57307 on assistant treasurer United States, Chicago, \$15, this date and amount.

ALFRED S. O'GORMAN,  
*Private, Company A, Twentieth Infantry.*

Sent to commanding officer Company A, Twentieth Infantry.  
Leavenworth, Kans., December 21, 1896.

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A BILL for the relief of Brigadier-General George W. Baird, United States Army.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury be, and they are hereby, directed, in the settlement of the accounts of George W. Baird, major and paymaster, United States Army, and lieutenant-colonel and Deputy Paymaster-General, United States Army, to allow such credits for payments, not to exceed six hundred and seventy-nine dollars and three cents, as may be recommended under authority of the Secretary of War by the Paymaster-General of the Army.

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